

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING ITPC 2004-2005 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL VOICE HUBS

1. Is this the funding discussed at the June conference available for all counties if we want to be a part of a Voice Hub or only if our county wants to be considered for the main Voice Hub in our area?

- a. This Request for Applications is to fund the coordination of regional Hubs. Once the Hubs are in place, they will issue mini-grants to individual teams from counties that choose to be involved in Voice Hub activities. Please refer to the draft map and corresponding information on page 3, under the heading Rationale and Focus Areas. The areas that are to be considered for funding under this RFA are the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwestern portions of Indiana. If you print the map in color it gives a clearer picture of the areas not currently represented. The gray shaded areas of the map which borders all the areas, northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest and the central region were intended to express the fact that the borders of the geographical areas can be adjusted depending on the proposal that is submitted. The borders of the Voice Hub regions can vary somewhat, our goal is to have the entire state covered, with Counties grouped together in contiguous geographical regions.

2. The due date for the RFA is relatively close to the release of the request, will there be an extension allowed to submit the application to ITPC beyond August 4, 2004.

- a. We apologize for the short turnaround for the applications, but we have a limited number of opportunities to present the proposals to the Executive Board for approval. The next Executive Board Meeting is August 19th. Once the proposals are received they will be forwarded to the review team for recommendations. Once the review team has made their recommendation, ITPC will have the assemble the package to be presented at the Next Executive Board meeting for approval. If we do not get the proposals to the Board Members on August 19th, our next opportunity will not occur until November of 2004 and that will leave only 6 months for the successful grantees to perform the programs.

In establishing the short turnaround for the applications, ITPC took into account the RFA does not involve the development of any new programs. The RFA is intended to solicit entities with proven experience in tobacco control and in previous Voice activities locally.

Applications are expected to demonstrate that they possess the capacity to do the work that is required to educate others within the Voice Hub region and complete the activities in the prescribed timeframe for the grants.

- 3. If I don't apply for this grant, can I still do VOICE activities?**
 - a. This Request for Applications is to fund the coordination of regional hubs. This in no way replaces the many Voice efforts that are already underway locally. The Voice Hubs are meant to provide additional training, coordination, and communication to help increase the number of Voice activities in Indiana.

- 4. If an entity who applied is not selected to be a Voice Hub, can it still participate in Voice trainings and be a part of a Voice Hub?**
 - a. If an entity is not selected to serve as a Voice Hub, they will be invited to be a part of one of the Hubs by County and geographic location. The entity may be allowed to participate in Voice trainings and will then be a part of one of the Regional Voice Hubs.

- 5. How will the \$360,000 be divided among the 4 regions (in fourths)?**
 - a. The funding will be divided up based on the proposal submitted. It could be more or less than \$90,000 ($360,000/4$) depending on the grant proposal. The funding is not a set amount, but it will not be much more or less.

- 6. What is considered a Hub for this (Northwest Indiana) area?**
 - a. The Hubs will cover a defined contiguous geographic area within the region. The regions are not clearly defined, we will do that once we review and evaluate the proposals. Our desire is to make sure the entire state is served by a Regional Voice Hub. At this time any county north and west of the central region of the state would be considered grouped together and the Northwest Regional Voice Hub. Where the defined cutoff lies, has not been determined; it is flexible.

- 7. Can an organization that is not a current minority or community coalition apply? Such as the YMCA under their youth outreach?**

- a. Short answer, anyone can apply, but they must meet the criteria to be seriously considered for funding. ITPC is looking for groups with the capacity and desire to work in the developing Statewide Regional Voice Hub structure. The organization will support multiple counties' Voice groups, providing training, facilitating meetings, supporting outside activities, etc. Organizations must have recommendations from existing minority or community coalitions, previous tobacco control programming experience, and experience with Voice.

8. Who developed the new VOICE structure? How will it be better than before?

- a. The new VOICE structure first came from the ideas of a group of west central coalitions who submitted a statewide grant detailing what they believed Indiana adults and youth needed to make VOICE successful. Then, a group of adults representing ITPC, local partners, youth training, and media, met regularly to develop the proposed changes. The full enhancement of the VOICE movement was based completely on what local partners across Indiana have expressed a need for during the first two years of VOICE's existence.
- b. This new VOICE structure will be better than before as it focuses on providing more training, resources, funding, communication, and overall support to the movement, both adults and youth. Everyone will benefit from the new structure in some way, but the amount of benefits received depends on the local partners' level of commitment to the movement.
- c. The new Voice structure enhances what is already occurring at the local level. It does not in any way replace what is already going on at the local level.

9. How are adults receiving the support they need from the new VOICE structure?

- a. Adults will receive support from the new VOICE structure in several ways. First, they will have a part-time VOICE hub coordinator in their region with whom they can work with and communicate with solely on VOICE. Secondly, hub adult partners will receive specific training for adults on how to recruit youth, build quality relationships, sustain the movement, types of possible initiatives, etc. Plus, Hub adult partners will receive a \$2000 mini-grant to enhance their local VOICE movement. Finally, all adults will have access to an online "back-door" resource center that will be full of VOICE action plans from other communities, communication and media materials, snapshots on how VOICE has taken shape in other communities, plus many others.

10. Why does the funding for each hub not offer enough money for every county to participate as a hub partner?

- a. During 2003, ITPC experienced a 70% budget cut by the General Assembly, so funding is severely limited for all programs. Partners have the ability to build a youth component into their work plan if they believe there is interest in the community to support such a program. The Voice hub structure allows each county to participate as a hub partner. All county Voice groups will have access to the online resource network, Youth Summits, regional and state activities, and communication on VOICE. However, only those who are able to take on the responsibility of being a hub partner will be able to attend the training and receive mini-grant funds.

11. If I do not become a hub partner, how do I benefit from the new VOICE structure?

- a. There will be more ideas of ways to empower youth available through on-line action plans and resources. Everyone will benefit from the additional ideas and interventions that are conducted through the Voice hubs.

12. Can I still attend the trainings if I am not a hub partner?

- a. Because of the 70% budget cuts, only those ready to take VOICE to the next level will be able to be a Hub partner, which includes receiving a mini-grant and attending the training. The goal of the new VOICE structure is to expand to include all partners in a hub in fall 2005, pending on funding levels. However, there will be materials in the online resource center that all partners will have access to, including training materials on youth organizing.

13. How does the Youth Advisory Board participate in this new structure?

- a. YAB members will be involved in Hub activities that are in their local communities and in regional activities and summits sponsored by Voice.

14. How do I nominate someone for the YAB?

- a. At least once a year, a call for nominations is distributed to all current YAB members and all local, minority, and state ITPC partners. Interested youth need to complete an application.

- 15. I have not started VOICE in my community yet. Can I still be a part of a hub?**
- a. You do not have to have VOICE in full force in your community to participate in a hub. Rather, the hub is intended for those local partners who are ready to commit to help youth fight against big tobacco at a higher level. Being a part of a hub includes committing to the mini-grant requirements, so those that are ready to do so are welcome to be a part of a hub.
- 16. Are there going to be statewide VOICE events?**
- a. The first planned statewide Voice event is Tobacco Free Kids Day at the Indiana State Fair. The Youth Advisory Board will review and consider other opportunities as they occur throughout the year. More emphasis will be placed on regional events in the coming year than statewide events.
- 17. How are the VOICE Youth Summits going to be a part of the new VOICE structure?**
- a. It is projected that there will be three regional Voice youth summits held during the next school year.
- 18. What do I need to do to be a hub partner?**
- a. Keep in contact with your regional Director to find out who the Voice Hub is and when to expect the first call for interest in participating.
- 19. When will I be contacted to be a hub partner?**
- a. As soon as lead agencies for the Voice hubs are selected, they will begin communicating with ITPC partners in their geographic area to find out who is interested in becoming a partner.
- 20. What are the long-term range goals of the new VOICE structure?**
- a. The long range goal of all Voice activities is to protect youth from becoming the next addicting generation of the tobacco industry. With that in mind, the short-term objective for the new Voice structure is to enhance the local action of Voice through increasing training, collaboration, and communication through an infrastructure of 6 regional Voice hubs.

21. If I am not a hub partner this time, will I ever be able to become a hub partner?

- a. The goal of the new VOICE structure is to expand to include all partners in a hub in fall 2005, pending on funding levels. The first year of the new VOICE structure is to involve those ready at this moment to expand their VOICE movement. Other partners may not be ready until a year from now to invest time and focus on VOICE; thus, the goal is to eventually include every ITPC partner as they are ready.

22. Is being a hub partner a requirement of ITPC?

- a. No.